

DOCKET NO: 213267US0PCT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
JAMES ARTHUR SMITH, ET AL. : EXAMINER: JUSKA, C. A.
SERIAL NO: 09/926,109 :
FILED: SEPTEMBER 4, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1771
FOR: PRODUCTION OF A TEXTILE :
FLOORCOVERING HAVING MORE
THAN ONE LAYER, USING AN
AQUEOUS POLYMER DISPERSION AS
ADHESIVE

APPEAL BRIEF

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

This is an appeal of the Final Rejection dated April 6, 2004 of Claims 1-8 and 11-21.

A Notice of Appeal was filed May 3, 2004.

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest in this appeal is BASF Aktiengesellschaft having an address
67056 Ludwigshafen, Germany.

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II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appellants, Appellants' legal representative and the assignee are aware of no appeals or interferences which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this appeal.

III. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 and 11-21, all the claims in the application, stand rejected and are herein appealed.

IV. STATUS OF THE AMENDMENTS

No amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 has been filed.

V. SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

As recited in Claim 1, the invention is a textile floorcovering having more than one layer, wherein the layers have been bonded by an adhesive which comprises, as binder, an aqueous dispersion of a mixture made from a polymer A), at least 60% by weight of which is composed of ethylene and from a polymer B), at least 60% by weight of which is composed of vinylaromatics, dienes or mixtures of these, wherein the textile floorcovering is a tufted carpet, and wherein one layer is a tufted backing fabric, and one layer is a secondary backing bonded to said tufted backing fabric by said adhesive.

See original Claims 1, 9 and 10, and the specification at page 1, lines 5-11 and the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8.

As recited in Claim 13, the invention is also an aqueous adhesive comprising, as binder, an aqueous dispersion of a mixture made from a polymer A), at least 60% by weight of which is composed of ethylene and from a polymer B), at least 60% by weight of which is

composed of vinylaromatics, dienes or mixtures of these, and comprising a thickener, where the thickener is a copolymer of ethylenically unsaturated compounds at least 50% by weight of which are ethylenically unsaturated acids, ethylenically unsaturated amides or mixtures of these.

See original Claim 13 and the specification at page 6, last paragraph.

As recited in Claim 21, the invention is also a textile floorcovering having more than one layer, wherein the layers have been bonded by an adhesive which comprises, as binder, an aqueous dispersion of a mixture made from a polymer A), at least 60% by weight of which is composed of ethylene and from a polymer B), at least 60% by weight of which is composed of vinylaromatics, dienes or mixtures of these, wherein the proportion by weight of the polymer A) is less than 10% by weight, based on the total of A) and B).

See the specification at page 6, lines 19-24, and Adhesives 2 and 6 in Table 1 at page 9.

VI. ISSUES

Whether claims are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as follows:

- (A) Claims 1-3, 7, 8, 11, 12, and 14-17 over JP58-152037 (JP '037)?
- (B) Claim 4 over JP '037 in view of U.S. 6,162,848 (Lattime et al)?
- (C) Claims 5, 6 and 13 over JP '037 in view of U.S. 5,851,625 (Smesney et al)?
- (D) Claims 18-21 over JP '037 in view of JP58-041972 (JP '972)?
- (E) Claim 21 over U.S. 5,403,884 (Perlinski)?
- (F) Claim 13 over Perlinski in view of Smesney et al?

VII. GROUPING OF THE CLAIMS

For Issue (A), Claims 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17 each stand or fall separately with Claim 1. Regarding the remaining Issues, wherein more than one claim is rejected, each claim stands or falls separately.

VIII. ARGUMENT

Issue (A)

Claims 1-3, 7, 8, 11, 12, and 14-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over JP '037. That rejection is untenable and should not be sustained.

The invention relates to textile floorcoverings composed of more than one layer, wherein the layers have been bonded by an adhesive which comprises, as binder, as aqueous dispersion of a mixture made from a polymer A) at least 60% by weight of which is composed of ethylene and from a polymer B) at least 60% by weight of which is composed of vinylaromatics, dienes or mixtures of these, wherein the textile floorcovering is a tufted carpet. Such carpets are traditionally made by bonding a tufted backing fabric with a secondary backing using an adhesive. Such adhesives have included styrene-butadiene copolymers. Such adhesives have also been used as a precoat in which pile material is tufted through the backing fabric, i.e., pulled and then fixed by applying a binder. The prior art adhesives have not been fully satisfactory.

As recited in Claim 1, the present invention is a textile floorcovering having more than one layer, wherein the layers have been bonded by an adhesive which comprises, as binder, an aqueous dispersion of a mixture made from a polymer A), at least 60% by weight of which is composed of ethylene and from a polymer B), at least 60% by weight of which is composed of vinylaromatics, dienes or mixtures of these, wherein the textile floorcovering is

a tufted carpet, and wherein one layer is a tufted backing fabric, and one layer is a secondary backing bonded to said tufted backing fabric by said adhesive.

The specification contains comparative data between the presently-claimed invention, and prior art adhesives based on butadiene/styrene copolymer. Table 1 at pages 8-9 of the specification lists precoats and adhesives used in the comparative data, reproduced below:

Table 1:

	Constituents	Parts by weight (dry)
Precoat 1	SN LD 611	100
	Chalk W 12	500
	Latekol D	0.2
	Solids content 78 %	
Precoat 2	SN LD 791	100
	Latekol D	0.2
Precoat 3	SN LD 791	100
	Chalk W 12	800
	Latekol D	0.2
	Solids content 78 %	
Adhesive 1	SN LD 611	100
	Chalk W 12	250
	Latekol D	0.2
	Solids content 78 %	
Adhesive 2	SN LD 611	95
	Poligen WE 3	5
	Collacral HP	1.0
	Solids content 50 %	
Adhesive 3	SN LD 611	90
	Polygen W3	10
	Collacral HP	1
	Solids content 47,5 %	
Adhesive 4	SN LD 611	100
	Chalk W 12	250
	Latekol D	0.2
	Solids content 75 %	
Adhesive 5	SN LD 611	100
	Latekol D	0.2
	Solids content 53 %	
Adhesive 6	SN LD 611	95
	Polygen W3	5
	Latekol D	1
Adhesive 7	SN LD 611	90
	Polygen W3	10
	Latekol D	1

Meanings of terms:

SN LD 611: Styrofan® LD 611, butadiene/styrene copolymer, ethylene

Poligen® WE 3: ethylene/acrylic acid copolymer

Chalk W 12: Calcicol W 12 from Alpha Calcit

Collacral®: thickener, acrylic acid/acrylamide copolymer

Latekol® D: thickener, polyacrylic acid

Adhesives 1, 4 and 5 are for purposes of comparison, since they do not contain presently-recited polymer A). With preliminary application of one of the precoats, the strength of the bond between a precoated backing fabric and a secondary backing was determined, as described in the specification beginning at page 9, line 37. Using three different combinations of tufted backing fabric and secondary backing, wet and dry strength adhesive performance was evaluated, as shown in Tables 2-4, at pages 10-11 of the specification, reproduced below:

Table 2:

Bond strength (5/32 wool fiber tufted into woven polypropylene (900 g/m²); secondary backing: polypropylene needlefelt, 375 g/m²)

	Amount applied (dry)		dry		wet	
	Precoat	Adhesive	F	F max	F	F max
Precoat 1, Adhesive 4*)	650	800	39.2	54.9	22.3	27.1
Precoat 1, Adhesive 2	650	230	44.6**)	64.6**)	33.1	37.9
Precoat 1, Adhesive 2	650	180	72.9	83.0	50.4	35.5
Precoat 1, Adhesive 3	650	230	45.6**)	73.0**)	43.4	53.2
Precoat 1, Adhesive 3	650	180	63.2	78.2	38.4	45.9
Precoat 2, Adhesive 2	100	230	46.4**)	64.9**)	42.8	53.6
Precoat 1, Adhesive 5*)	650	230	42.1	53.1	-	-
Precoat 1 Adhesive 7	650	230	41.9**)	65.5**)	44.2	52.5

*) for comparison

**) tufted threads were pulled out of the backing fabric

Table 3:

Bond strength (1/8 polyamide fiber tufted into woven polypropylene (625 g/m²); secondary backing: polypropylene needlefelt (375 g/m²))

	Amount applied (dry)		dry		wet	
	Precoat	Adhesive	F	F max	F	F max
Precoat 1, Adhesive 2	650	230	63.0	68.1	28.9	34.9
Precoat 2, Adhesive 2	100	230	100.1	107.7	33.5	39.9

Table 4:

Bond strength (5/32 polypropylene fiber tufted into polypropylene (650 g/m²); secondary backing: polypropylene needlefelt (330 g/m²))

	Amount applied (dry)		dry		wet	
	Precoat	Adhesive	F	F max	F	F max
Precoat 3, Adhesive 4*)	780	550	10.7	16.3	6.4	7.7
Precoat 3, Adhesive 2	780	160	34.0	40.8	21.6	26.3
Precoat 2, Adhesive 2	90	160	24.1	27.7	10.9	12.7

As shown therein, the prior art adhesives were generally inferior to the adhesive of the presently-claimed invention.

In the Final Office Action, at paragraph 15, the Examiner finds that the above-discussed showing of unexpected results is "not commensurate with the closest prior art."

In reply, since the Examiner has not made out a *prima facie* case of obviousness, there is no necessity of any comparison with the closest prior art, or that any showing of unexpected results be commensurate in scope with subject matter that is *prima facie* obvious.

The above-discussed results could not have been predicted by the applied prior art, which is now discussed.

JP '037 discloses a fireproof backing composition for carpeting comprising the combination of a fire-retarding plasticizer and a polymer composition, which polymer

composition consists of 40-95 wt% of an emulsion of vinyl chloride-ethylene (III) or vinyl chloride-vinyl acetate-ethylene copolymer (IV) or their modified material (V), and 5-60% of a synthetic rubber latex (VI), which synthetic rubber latex may be a butadiene copolymer such as styrene-butadiene, acrylonitrile-butadiene, or methyl methacrylate-butadiene. JP '037 further discloses that the weight ratio of vinyl chloride to ethylene to vinyl acetate in (presumably) components (III) and (IV) is 30-95:5-70:55-0.

Based on the above disclosure, the Examiner finds that the above-described polymer composition of JP '037 meets the limitations of the presently-recited mixture made from polymer A) and polymer B). The Examiner additionally relies on Official Notice for other limitations in the claims, i.e., that conventional carpets are predominantly comprised of a woven polypropylene primary backing which is tufted with face yarns, an adhesive latex backing, and a secondary backing of a woven polypropylene fabric, and that fillers or lack thereof are well known in the art of carpets, and when used, it is well known to use them in an amount of up to 200 pbw.

In reply, the presently-recited binder is recited as bonding the layers of a tufted carpet, wherein one layer is a tufted backing fabric, and one layer is a secondary backing bonded to the tufted backing fabric. The binder is not a backing *per se*, which is what JP '037 discloses. While the Examiner finds that the fireproof backing composition of JP '037 is an "adhesive" backing, there is no disclosure therein that it is adhesive. Moreover, even if it had adhesive properties at one time, such as during its preparation, it presumably would not be adhesive in its final form. There is simply no disclosure or suggestion in the art, even if the facts which the Examiner takes Official Notice of are true, that a material used for carpet backing would find use as an adhesive for bonding adjacent layers of carpeting, including a tufted backing fabric bonded to a secondary backing.

In the Final Office Action, at paragraph 11, in response to Appellants' arguments, the Examiner finds that "[s]ince the use of latexes in the carpet art is conventionally limited to adhesive back coats, it is asserted that the composition disclosed by JP '037 is an adhesive back coat and not a secondary backing layer, as is implied by Applicant. As is well-known in the art, latex back coats are used to bind tufts of pile yarns to a primary backing layer. Additionally, it is well-known in the art that latex back coats also function as an adhesive binder when a secondary backing is employed for binding said secondary backing to the tufted primary backing."

In reply, whatever may be conventional in the art, and the Examiner offers no evidence in support thereof, the composition of JP '037 is disclosed as a "backing composition," not an adhesive for bonding a tufted backing fabric and a secondary backing for a tufted carpet.

Claim 7 is separately patentable, because JP '037 neither discloses nor suggests a textile floorcovering as claimed in claim 1, wherein the adhesive comprises less than 200 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the total of A) and B), of a filler. Since JP '037 does not disclose an adhesive, it obviously does not disclose or suggest adding a filler thereto.

Claim 8 is separately patentable, because JP '037 neither discloses nor suggests a textile floorcovering as claimed in claim 1, wherein no filler is present in the adhesive. Since JP '037 does not disclose an adhesive, it obviously does not disclose or suggest one with no filler.

Claim 11 is separately patentable, because JP '037 neither discloses nor suggests a process for producing a textile floorcovering as claimed in claim 1, which comprises applying from 20 g to 1000 g (dry) per m² of adhesive to one of the layers and adhesively bonding the

layers to one another. Since JP '037 does not disclose an adhesive, it obviously does not disclose or suggest the amounts recited in Claim 11.

Claim 12 is separately patentable, because JP '037 neither discloses nor suggests a process for producing a textile floorcovering as claimed in claim 11, wherein the adhesive is applied to the reverse side of the tufted backing fabric and the tufted backing fabric is adhesively bonded to the secondary backing. Since JP '037 does not disclose an adhesive, it necessarily does not disclose or suggest how an adhesive would be applied.

Claim 14 is separately patentable, because JP '037 neither discloses nor suggests a textile floorcovering as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tufted backing fabric comprises mainly a polypropylene or a polyester. As the Examiner concedes, JP '037 does not disclose a tufted carpet having a tufted primary backing and a secondary backing adhered thereto by the presently-recited adhesive, nor obviously one where the tufted backing fabric comprises mainly a polypropylene or a polyester.

Claim 15 is separately patentable, because JP '037 neither discloses nor suggests a textile floorcovering as claimed in claim 14, wherein the tufted backing fabric comprises threads fixed thereto on a side thereof that bonds to the secondary backing, wherein the threads are fixed to the tufted backing fabric with a binder comprising a styrene-butadiene copolymer. JP '037 does not disclose the recited structure or the recited binder.

Claim 16 is separately patentable, because JP '037 neither discloses nor suggests a textile floorcovering as claimed in claim 1, wherein the secondary backing is a web made from woven or non-woven fibers, or is a needle felt, said secondary backing comprising a polyester or a polypropylene. As the Examiner concedes that JP '037 does not disclose a secondary backing adhered to a tufted primary backing with the presently-recited adhesive, it does not disclose or suggest the presently-recited secondary backing.

Claim 17 is separately patentable, because JP '037 neither discloses nor suggests a textile floorcovering as claimed in claim 14, wherein the secondary backing is a web made from woven or non-woven fibers, or is a needle felt, said secondary backing comprising a polyester or a polypropylene. See the discussion above with regard to Claim 16.

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be REVERSED.

Issue (B)

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over JP '037 in view of Lattime et al. That rejection is untenable and should not be sustained.

Even if a styrene-butadiene rubber of JP '037 were carboxylated, as disclosed by Lattime et al., the result would still not be the presently-claimed invention.

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be REVERSED.

Issue (C)

Claims 5, 6 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over JP '037 in view of Smesney et al. That rejection is untenable and should not be sustained.

As recited in Claim 13, the invention is an aqueous adhesive comprising, as binder, an aqueous dispersion of a mixture made from a polymer A), at least 60% by weight of which is composed of ethylene and from a polymer B), at least 60% by weight of which is composed of vinylaromatics, dienes or mixtures of these, and comprising a thickener, where the thickener is a copolymer of ethylenically unsaturated compounds at least 50% by weight of which are ethylenically unsaturated acids, ethylenically unsaturated amides or mixtures of these.

Smesney et al discloses an adhesive composition containing, *inter alia*, a thickener. JP '037, on the other hand, discloses a fireproof backing composition for carpeting. Without the present disclosure as a guide, it is not clear why one skilled in the art would add an adhesive thickener to the fireproof backing composition of JP '037. Nevertheless, even if a thickener, as disclosed by Smesney et al, were added to the carpet backing composition of JP '037, the result would not be the presently-claimed invention.

Claim 5 is separately patentable, since one skilled in the art would not add a thickener, disclosed for use in an adhesive by Smesney et al, to JP '037, which is drawn to a fireproof backing composition for carpeting.

Claim 6 is separately patentable, since one skilled in the art would not add a thickener, wherein the thickener is a copolymer of ethylenically unsaturated compounds at least 50% by weight of which are ethylenically unsaturated acids, ethylenically unsaturated amides or mixtures of these, disclosed for use in an adhesive by Smesney et al, to JP '037, which is drawn to a fireproof backing composition for carpeting.

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be REVERSED.

Issue (D)

Claims 18-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over JP '037 in view of JP '972. That rejection is untenable and should not be sustained.

As recited in Claim 21, the invention is also a textile floorcovering having more than one layer, wherein the layers have been bonded by an adhesive which comprises, as binder, an aqueous dispersion of a mixture made from a polymer A), at least 60% by weight of which is composed of ethylene and from a polymer B), at least 60% by weight of which is

composed of vinylaromatics, dienes or mixtures of these, wherein the proportion by weight of the polymer A) is less than 10% by weight, based on the total of A) and B).

The Examiner relies on JP '972 for the proposition that it would be obvious to modify the composition of JP '037, which requires a minimum of 40 wt% of the ethylene-containing polymer, to an amount as low as 10 wt%, based on the disclosure in JP '972, which is of a flame-retarding backing for floor covering. In reply, just because compositions exist having a lesser amount of ethylene-containing copolymer than the one disclosed in JP '037 does not provide motivation to change the amount in JP '037. Indeed, JP '037 and JP '972 are assigned to the same assignee and were published around the same time. Clearly, if JP '037 thought that their particular fireproof backing composition for carpeting would be useful by including a lower amount of ethylene-containing copolymer than the 40 wt% minimum, it would have been disclosed therein. Nevertheless, even if JP '037 and JP '972 were combined, the result would still not be the presently-claimed invention, since neither reference discloses or suggests an adhesive for bonding respective carpet layers.

Claim 18 is separately patentable, since the combination of JP '037 and JP '972 neither discloses nor suggests the textile floorcovering as claimed in claim 2, wherein the proportion by weight of the polymer A) is from 0.5 to 20% by weight and that of B) is from 80 to 99.5% by weight, based on the total of A) and B). JP '037 requires a minimum of 40 wt% of a polymer analogous to polymer A).

Claim 19 is separately patentable, since the combination of JP '037 and JP '972 neither discloses nor suggests the textile floorcovering as claimed in claim 18, wherein the proportion by weight of the polymer A) is from 1 to 10% by weight and that of B) is from 90 to 99% by weight, based on the total of A) and B). JP '037 requires a minimum of 40 wt% of a polymer analogous to polymer A).

Claim 20 is separately patentable, since the combination of JP '037 and JP '972 neither discloses nor suggests the textile floorcovering as claimed in claim 19, wherein the proportion by weight of the polymer A) is less than 10% by weight, based on the total of the A) and B). JP '037 requires a minimum of 40 wt% of a polymer analogous to polymer A).

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be REVERSED.

Issue (E)

Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Perlinski. That rejection is untenable and should not be sustained.

Perlinski discloses a process for flocking cured or uncured elastomeric substrates comprising the steps of applying to the substrate an aqueous adhesive comprising 10 to 100% of an alkaline dispersion of an ethylene carboxylic acid copolymer and 0 to 90% of an aqueous elastomeric dispersion; electrostatically applying flocking fibers thereto, and drying the thus-flocked substrate (column 1, lines 52-58). The ethylene carboxylic acid copolymer is preferably present in an amount of 50 to 70% by weight (dry) of the flocking adhesive composition. The aqueous elastomeric dispersion may be, for example, carboxylated styrene-butadiene (column 5, lines 1-5). In the exemplified adhesives of Perlinski which contain such a carboxylated styrene-butadiene (adhesives A and D), the amount of ethylene carboxylic acid copolymer, i.e., ethylene-acrylic acid copolymer, is approximately 73% by weight of the total amount of said copolymer and the carboxylated styrene-butadiene $[240 \div (240 + 85)]$. Perlinski discloses additionally that "viscosity improvers such as fumed silica, etc." can be added (column 6, lines 11-14).

Perlinski neither discloses nor otherwise the presently-claimed invention of Claim 21, since the amount of polymer A) is outside the respective amount disclosed in Perlinski.

The Examiner finds that since Perlinski discloses a minimum amount of 10%, then it would be obvious to employ an amount less than 10%, such as 9%, since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result-effective variable requires only routine skill in the art.

In reply, the Examiner's argument might have some weight if Applicants were asserting that they have found an optimum percentage between the 10-100% range in Perlinski. However, Claim 21 is outside this range. It is clearly not obvious to optimize a variable outside the range in the reference. Moreover, Perlinski discloses a preferred range of 50-70%. Thus, Perlinski already directs a person skilled in the art that if optimization is to be further carried out, it would be within the 50-70% range. Thus, Perlinski actually directs persons skilled in the art away from 10%, let alone a percentage less than 10%.

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be REVERSED.

Issue (F)

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Perlinski in view of Smesny et al. That rejection is untenable and should not be sustained.

The disclosures and deficiencies of Perlinski have been discussed above. Smesny et al does not remedy these deficiencies. Even if a thickener, as disclosed by Smesny et al, were added to the aqueous adhesive of Perlinski, the result would still not be the presently-claimed invention.

Nevertheless, without the present disclosure as a guide, there would have been no reason for one skilled in the art to choose the thickener disclosed by Smesny et al, out of all known thickeners, to the aqueous adhesive of Perlinski.

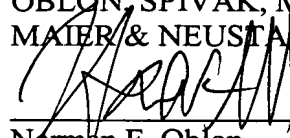
For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be
REVERSED.

IX. CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that all the rejections still pending
in the Final Office Action be REVERSED.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

CLAIMS ON APPEAL

1. A textile floorcovering having more than one layer, wherein the layers have been bonded by an adhesive which comprises, as binder, an aqueous dispersion of a mixture made from a polymer A), at least 60% by weight of which is composed of ethylene and from a polymer B), at least 60% by weight of which is composed of vinylaromatics, dienes or mixtures of these, wherein the textile floorcovering is a tufted carpet, and wherein one layer is a tufted backing fabric, and one layer is a secondary backing bonded to said tufted backing fabric by said adhesive.

2. A textile floorcovering as claimed in claim 1, wherein the proportion by weight of the polymer A) is from 0.1 to 50% by weight and that of B) is from 50 to 99.9% by weight, based on the total of A) and B).

3. A textile floorcovering as claimed in claim 1, wherein the structural components present in the polymer A) are from 60 to 99.9% by weight of ethylene and from 0.1 to 40% by weight of an ethylenically unsaturated acid, based on polymer A).

4. A textile floorcovering as claimed in claim 1 wherein the structural components present in the polymer B) are from 60 to 99.9% by weight of vinylaromatics, dienes or mixtures of these and from 0.1 to 20% by weight of an ethylenically unsaturated acid, based on polymer B).

5. A textile floorcovering as claimed in claim 1, wherein the adhesive also comprises a thickener.

6. A textile floorcovering as claimed in claim 5, wherein the thickener is a copolymer of ethylenically unsaturated compounds at least 50% by weight of which are ethylenically unsaturated acids, ethylenically unsaturated amides or mixtures of these.

7. A textile floorcovering as claimed in claim 1, wherein the adhesive comprises less than 200 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the total of A) and B), of a filler.

8. A textile floorcovering as claimed in claim 1, wherein no filler is present in the adhesive.

11. A process for producing a textile floorcovering as claimed in claim 1, which comprises applying from 20 g to 1000 g (dry) per m² of adhesive to one of the layers and adhesively bonding the layers to one another.

12. A process for producing a textile floorcovering as claimed in claim 11, wherein the adhesive is applied to the reverse side of the tufted backing fabric and the tufted backing fabric is adhesively bonded to the secondary backing.

13. An aqueous adhesive comprising, as binder, an aqueous dispersion of a mixture made from a polymer A), at least 60% by weight of which is composed of ethylene and from a polymer B), at least 60% by weight of which is composed of vinylaromatics, dienes or mixtures of these, and comprising a thickener, where the thickener is a copolymer of

ethylenically unsaturated compounds at least 50% by weight of which are ethylenically unsaturated acids, ethylenically unsaturated amides or mixtures of these.

14. A textile floorcovering as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tufted backing fabric comprises mainly a polypropylene or a polyester.

15. A textile floorcovering as claimed in claim 14, wherein the tufted backing fabric comprises threads fixed thereto on a side thereof that bonds to the secondary backing, wherein the threads are fixed to the tufted backing fabric with a binder comprising a styrene-butadiene copolymer.

16. A textile floorcovering as claimed in claim 1, wherein the secondary backing is a web made from woven or non-woven fibers, or is a needle felt, said secondary backing comprising a polyester or a polypropylene.

17. A textile floorcovering as claimed in claim 14, wherein the secondary backing is a web made from woven or non-woven fibers, or is a needle felt, said secondary backing comprising a polyester or a polypropylene.

18. A textile floorcovering as claimed in claim 2, wherein the proportion by weight of the polymer A) is from 0.5 to 20% by weight and that of B) is from 80 to 99.5% by weight, based on the total of A) and B).

19. A textile floorcovering as claimed in claim 18, wherein the proportion by weight of the polymer A) is from 1 to 10% by weight and that of B) is from 90 to 99% by weight, based on the total of A) and B).

20. A textile floorcovering as claimed in claim 19, wherein the proportion by weight of the polymer A) is less than 10% by weight, based on the total of the A) and B).

21. A textile floorcovering having more than one layer, wherein the layers have been bonded by an adhesive which comprises, as binder, an aqueous dispersion of a mixture made from a polymer A), at least 60% by weight of which is composed of ethylene and from a polymer B), at least 60% by weight of which is composed of vinylaromatics, dienes or mixtures of these, wherein the proportion by weight of the polymer A) is less than 10% by weight, based on the total of A) and B).